

AMENDMENT

U.S. Appln. No. 10/634,125

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A ~~promoter for increasing plasma volume containing as an active ingredient a gel~~ composition comprising the following components and having a pH in the range of 3 to 4:

Protein that does not coagulate at pH 3 to pH 4	3 - 8 wt.%
Calcium	0.1 - 0.5 wt.%
Acids	0.5 - 3 wt.%
Carbohydrate	4 - 20 wt.%
Fat	0 - 5 wt.%
Emulsifying agent	0 - 0.5 wt.%
Agar	0.1 - 1 wt.%
Water	65 - 90 wt.%,

wherein said protein that does no coagulate at pH 3 to pH 4 is at least one member selected from the group consisting of whey protein concentrate, whey protein isolate, desalted whey, and protein hydrolysates having a number average molecular weight of 500-10,000.

Claim 2. (Currently Amended) The ~~promoter—gel~~ composition according to claim 1, wherein the gel composition further comprises 0.1 to 20 wt.% of at least one masking agent selected from the group consisting of fruit juice, fermented milk, hard-to-digest dextrin, hydrogenated resistant maltodextrin, nigerooligosaccharide and trehalose.

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) The ~~promoter—gel~~ composition according to claim 1, wherein the gel composition

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further comprises vitamin D in an amount of  $0.1 \times 10^{-6}$  to  $10 \times 10^{-6}$  wt.%.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) A food containing the ~~promoter-gel~~ composition of claim 1.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) The ~~promoter-gel~~ composition according to claim 2, wherein the gel composition further comprises vitamin D in an amount of  $0.1 \times 10^{-6}$  to  $10 \times 10^{-6}$  wt.%.

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) A food containing the ~~promoter-gel~~ composition of claim 2.

Claim 7. (Currently Amended) A food containing the ~~promoter-gel~~ composition of claim 3.

Claim 8. (Currently Amended) A food containing the ~~promoter-gel~~ composition of claim 5.

Claim 9. (New) The gel composition according to claim 1, wherein said protein hydrolysate is a hydrolysate of a protein selected from the group consisting of casein, gelatin, soybean protein and wheat protein.

Claim 10. (New) A method for increasing plasma volume, comprising administering to a subject in need thereof, the gel composition of claim 1.

Claim 11. (New) A method for increasing plasma volume, comprising administering to a subject in need thereof, the food of claim 4.